

May 4, 1953

Mr. John O'Brien  
1 Southard Street  
Baldwin, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

I have your letter of April 30, asking for some references on radiation effects on bacteria.

I cannot send you very much from our own laboratory, as most of our research has had only an oblique connection with radiobiology. I can, however, give you a number of references which, I am sure, you will be able to find in the New York Public Library. In addition you might find it worthwhile to ask for an interview with Dr. M. Demerec, Department of Genetics, Carnegie Institution, Cold Spring Harbor, which is not too far from your own home. Dr. Demerec may be able to refer you in turn either to his associates, or to workers at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The most eminent authority in this particular field is probably Dr. Alexander Hollaender, Director, Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn. If you encounter any specific problems in your reading, I will be happy to have you refer them back here, or if you wish, you might write to these other scientists.

The following references may be useful (especially as leads to further literature

Nickson, J.J. (Ed.) 1950 Symposium on Radiobiology. John Wiley & Sons, especially chapters 13, 16

Werkman, C.H. and Wilson, P.W. 1951 Bacterial Physiology. Academic Press. pages 75-80 has numerous references.

Lea, D.E. 1947 Actions of radiations on living cells. MacMillan Co.

Hollaender, A. & others 1951 Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol. (ed. M. Demerec) 16:315-326

Glasser, O. Medical Physics. Various headings.

Symposium on radiation microbiology and biochemistry, 1952 (1949) Journal of Cellular and Comparative Physiology, Supplement 1 Volume 39

Kelner, A. 1953 Journal of Bacteriology, 65:252-262 (March).

Billen, D. & others 1953 Journal of Bacteriology, 65:131-135 (February).

This should give you a good start.

How did you come to write to me? Did you see my name in an AFC publication or elsewhere?

I shall be interested to learn whether you have made good use of all this. About 12 years I counted myself fortunate to be a beneficiary to a predecessor of the Westinghouse program.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics